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Registered Charity
No. 1070330

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May 2011

Dear Supporters

I hope you have been enjoying the good weather. The kitten season has arrived with a vengeance again and each day brings at least one litter to worry about. Our walls are not elastic and we urgently need Foster homes to cope with the demand. Please do think about using a spare room to house a feline family in need.

We also need more Progress Checkers to visit cats in their new homes in Clevedon, Portishead and Weston-super-Mare. If you live in one of these areas please contact me for more details.

We need lots for our July 5th auction which will again be opened by our local patron Ian Fergusson. Please call me if you have something to offer for our sale this year.

We need more collectors for our Almondsbury Garden Centre days on July 9th and Dec 10th. Clear your diary for these dates and come and help us.

As our first speed dating event was such a success another evening has been booked for June 14th. Held at the Quaker meeting rooms on Gloucester Rd Horfield, there will be a session at 7.15 for 18 – 33 year olds and another at 8.30 for ages 33 plus, so single supporters of all ages are catered for. Please come along and have fun and perhaps meet that special someone!

Christine

Mar 12

A Rentokil worker rang me first thing. Sam is trapping ferals at Bristol Airport and having caught one overnight he was desperate to find a humane solution rather than take the cat away to kill it. I asked Companion Care vets to receive it and they are prepared to have this and another airport cat instead of the Avonmouth ferals due to be trapped on Monday. I didn't know there was a problem at Bristol Airport. Yet another site to clear.

An amazing adoption day – 4 adults left for new homes. Grey stray Dorian went off to Almondsbury, Paddy went to a new home two streets away, Eddy, a tabby and white young adult who has been here nearly 18 months went to a home five minutes away and bouncy Loulou went home with a volunteer helper.

Mar 13

Sadly Paddy was brought back – the new owner's partner decided he didn't really want a cat. I've recruited the new owner as a volunteer so she will have a cat 'fix' twice a week as she is unable to have a house cat.

A farmer from near Winford rings. His neighbouring farmer has died and the farm's feral cats have moved onto his land – can I trap and take them away?

Lunchtime a local woman came to borrow a fold up cat pen. Her daughter has moved back home with her cat and the mother's cat is trying to kill it! I offered the pen so that the two cats can get used to each other without either being hurt (otherwise the daughter's cat will have to be rehomed).

Gypsy Moth was introduced to the great outdoors this afternoon He has always been the most energetic of the permanents and as we have lost Colette recently leaving only three that go into the garden then it's time to introduce a few more. Gypsy Moth met Lyle, Coleen and Coriander in the kitchen on Thursday and Friday and they head butted each other in

friendship. Yesterday he looked through the back door cat flap and sniffed the air as I held the flap half open with a pen. This afternoon at 3pm he cautiously put his head through several times before climbing slowly out. He disappeared until 3.45 when he came in covered in cobwebs. He was quite frightened by his experience and went back to his living room friends for reassurance! Once he's familiar with the cat flap I'll offer the opportunity to other permanents (some of them are tired just turning over on the settee so not all will want to go out).

Mar 15

Sam rang first thing. A second airport feral has been trapped and taken for neutering. I had a home lined up near Yate for the next two Avonmouth ferals so these airport ferals can have that location instead.

A woman from Staple Hill rang offering us special diet food for cats with kidney failure as her elderly sick cat had just been put to sleep. She was also looking for a pair of older cats to give a home to. I had been asked last week to find a home for two 9 year old sisters whose owner is going into sheltered accommodation. They seem to be a perfect match.

A letting agent rang to say two young black cats had been left behind in rented premises in Kingswood. I've offered to take the cats in tomorrow. The agent will deliver them to Companion Care vets for neutering.

This afternoon I met Jackie at the Yate home for the two airport ferals as she collected them from the vets. Both male cats are pale ginger and white. Obviously related. I wonder how many more are on the site?

Mar 16

The RSPCA collected the two cats from the letting agent's flat before I had a chance to admit them. Hopefully prosecution will follow as it is illegal to abandon an animal.



Had a phone call tonight from a Southmead man wanting to "get rid of a kitten". Further questioning revealed the kitten had been taken with three others from a man who was drowning them in a black bin liner in the stream that runs through Trowbridge Road in Southmead. I'll pick the kitten up on Friday morning and take it straight to Companion Care for processing. I need to go back to regular checks of the Trowbridge Rd stream where Moses was found screaming in a bag late one night about two years ago. (She found a lovely home in Henleaze after being bottle fed for three weeks)

Mar 17

The first call today was from a woman who didn't want her cat now as she had a new carpet! I put the cat on our waiting list and gave her numbers for others who may be able to help sooner.

Mar 18

A care worker rang to say an elderly person she had been helping had died leaving a young cat she had obtained as a kitten in July. Fortunately the carer has offered to be a foster home for us so Bridie (who is black of course) will stay with her.

A lunchtime call from a Southmead resident resulted in my collecting a tabby/tortie adult who had been left on her doorstep in a plastic cover this morning. I took Wilma straight to the vets for spaying and chipping.

Mar 19

Two families came to view today. One family for the two kittens from Avonmouth, Jamie and Shelley and the other household for the older boys Burton and Lidl. However sensing 'danger' all the office cats and kittens squashed themselves in the one remaining underbed drawer. The prospective adopters waited patiently for the cats to appear but after half an hour there was still no sign of them. I cleared the room and waited, still no

sign. I then opened the drawer slightly and saw them like sardines crouched down all hot because they were so confined. I showed the Clevedon family the evening post photos of Jamie and Shelley and they were chosen by their portraits and while the adopters filled in the forms in the living room I was able to load the kits in a carry basket as they came out from under the bed to see me (once the coast was clear). The second house adopted Paddy from the Dayer Suite and had to give up on even sighting Burton and Lidl!

Mar 20

Lazarus left home after nearly two years. Desperately friendly he was so boisterous he had always frightened visiting children!

Mar 22

A student caller this morning has offered to help once a week. Abigail will start on Thursday. Then a woman whose cat has recently been put to sleep came by with food and I persuaded her to view Alcatraz who is FIV positive and needs to be an indoor cat. Hopefully he has found himself a new home and will be collected soon.

Also a local man living in a quiet road called on the off chance looking for a cat "with attitude". I've arranged for him to meet Cloud, Venus and Tria at our Brentry site. All three are friendly to people but can't stand other cats!

Mar 23

Lazarus was brought back tonight in disgrace! He had leapt on the little girl's shoulder in his new home. He was only being friendly but obviously she screamed and was now frightened of him. The four evening volunteers waited in the hall for his return at 9pm. We had all missed him so much! He was kissed by all and taken back upstairs to the Dayer suite after his 'mini break'.



Mar 24

The first call today was from a neighbour of our patron Ian Fergusson. A ginger and white cat had been living rough for months in Bradley Stoke and was now in a very poor state. The caller will take him to Companion Care today (he's unneutered which explains his wandering from home). Once he's been neutered and chipped we'll offer him up for rehoming as apparently he's very friendly. Still on the Irish theme this one can be Sean (I can spell that at least).

Mar 26

A Westbury-on Trym family came to view at HQ tonight but the inmates decided not to be sociable. Bridie was chosen from our foster home instead which will make room for Sean to be brought here from the vets.

Mar 28

Trapping began this morning on the farm near Winford. The plan was to neuter two cats daily, however four cats ran into the two traps set overnight. Caroline who runs a cat sitting service took all four to a Nailsea vet.

Mar 29

Three of the cats trapped could be touched by the vet so rather than put them back I asked Caroline to bring them to our Brentry site to join the feral group there. I placed what must be Mum cat in a fold up pen by the outside feeding area and her black and white son and tortie daughter in another pen next to her. The cats can spend several days getting their bearings and getting to know the nine ferals already in the garden (who immediately came over to spit at them in their pens). Caroline took the remaining ginger cat home with her to the stables.

Mar 30

Two ginger Winford cats were trapped this morning and taken to the vet by Caroline. The farmer doesn't want any returned but as the whole group are being neutered and I've retained four I think he will agree to a compromise. Volunteer Maria arrived with a tiny grey kitten that had been removed from a house where a toddler was throwing him around. A social worker visiting the house extracted the kitten and passed him to Maria. The kitten had been bought last week at only *three* weeks old from a breeder in Avonmouth. (Obviously I'll try to discover the source and offer spaying help). I made up milk mixture for him but when I offered him some cooked chicken and rice he snatched at it and was purring as he ate. Hopefully he'll survive now to go to a quiet home without small children.

April 2

Belmarsh (we're having a prison theme this month) is being cared for by Maria and is thriving.

The last two feral cats have been trapped at Winford and neutered and released. The mother cat and her kittens are now living in the bushes on our Brentry site.

Tonight a Southmead resident rang to say her neighbour had moved leaving three cats in the garden. I recognised the address immediately as the home of a hard-line kitten breeder who advertises in Trade-It.

April 4

Caught two of the abandoned cats this morning and took them straight to the vets for neutering. There's a chance the new occupants will give the cats a home.

April 7

"I got a kitten from a friend last year to help him out but it's not working out". Yet another young black and white cat to go on the waiting list to come in. Why don't people get their



cats spayed before they get pregnant? Why don't friends think before they take on an eighteen year commitment?

I caught the remaining black and white female left behind in Southmead. She's extremely nervous and very vocal (probably part Siamese). I think after spaying and chipping I'll introduce her to the Brentry feral group.

April 8

Lidl and Burton were adopted today. They were hiding in the drawer under my bed and were chosen from their photos by their prospective owner who realised they would need many months to bond with her. With patience they should become very friendly pets.

April 12

A play leader at an adventure park in Hengrove rang to say a mother cat and kittens were living under a piece of equipment. Arrangements were made to have the family trapped and brought in. Mum cat was too wild to approach and the kittens had been seen running around. Hopefully they can be caught together.

April 13

The mother cat was in the trap today and taken to the vet to be spayed. The search goes on for her youngsters.

April 14

Our first speed dating evening was an amazing success. As I have never taken part in such an event I was as nervous as the participants but everyone said afterwards how much they had enjoyed themselves.

Adrienne, who had come in from Lockleaze after being left behind by her owners when they moved, was adopted today by a local family. This friendly black cat now has a loving home.

April 15

"I'm feeding a stray cat dear, she's very sweet with big green eyes and she's just about to have babies". After hearing this message I drove to Coombe Dingle where an elderly resident had the stray heavily pregnant cat shut in for me. Arabella is a beautiful pale grey and obviously only days away from giving birth. Kelly, our new fosterer came to collect her from HQ.

April 19

Kelly rang to say Arabella's kittens had arrived safely in the night. Two black and white, one black and one like Mum.

Mandy, Wilma and Sinead were all chosen from our Brentry site today.

Tonight I took Belmarsh to his new home in Westbury Park. He is going to be cherished by his new family.

April 20

The big day has come! Bossy Cloud from our Brentry site who has been in care over a year, left for her new home today. (She loves people but clouted all the younger cats as they walked past her).

April 22

Good Friday. The public assumed the Moggery was shut so the phone was silent all day. At 6pm the phone rang. A local resident in Easton had found a mother cat and two kittens in the local park. I asked her to shut them in and arranged for a nearby volunteer to bring them to HQ. The volunteer arrived at 7pm with kittens only as the mother had jumped out of a second floor window which had been left open. I asked the flat tenant to round up Mum and let me know when she was safely inside. At 8pm a second volunteer went to collect Mum and took her home planning to reunite her with her kittens the next morning. At 10.15pm I had a further call from the flat tenant "there's a black cat crying under my window - I think I gave you the wrong cat".



Volunteer Maria went back at 11pm and took in the right mother cat to accompany what we believe is the 'granny' cat already resident in her dining room.

April 23

The 11pm black cat was full of milk and obviously the mother of the kittens, who were very pleased to see her this morning. 'Granny' cat was also from the park. How many more black cats are there out there?

April 25

The Easton flat tenant rang to say she had found another black kitten in the park. Maria collected Bunny to go with her siblings Barrabas and Magda and Mum Freya all now in our Brentry site.

April 26

"Our cat's got kittens and our new dog is throwing them in the air". Maria brought in five 3 week old kittens and a very nervous mother cat who had been tormented by small children and the newly acquired Jack Russell terrier in their Knowle West home. Mum, a 'Felix' type black and white and her five black kits can have rest now in our Brentry site.

April 27

I've spotted three more cats on the Chittening Estate in Avonmouth whilst I've been putting food down this week. I hope to trap them on the next Bank Holiday when the lorries are silent.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday June 14th

Speed Dating

**Quaker Meeting Rooms, 300
Gloucester Road, Horfield**

7.15pm ages 18-33

8.30pm age 33+

**Please contact Christine on
0117 9243128 for further
information.**

Tues July 5th

Moggery Auction

**Quaker Meeting Rooms, 300
Gloucester Road, Horfield**

7.15pm opening by BBC

Weatherman Ian Fergusson

**If you have any items to
donate to be auctioned then
please contact Christine
today on 0117 9243128.**

Saturday July 9th

Collection day

Almondsbury Garden Centre

**If you can spare some time
to help with this please
contact Christine asap on
0117 9243128.**

